

A proclamation, set forth by the Kinges maiestie, With the assent and consent of his moste dere uncle, Edward Duke of Somerset, Governour of his moste royall person, and of his realmes, Dominions and Subiectes Protector, and others of his highnes moste honorable private counsaill, concerning the calling in of Testons, the x. daye of Aprill, in the second yere of his maiesties moste gracious reigne.



Whereas it is come to the knowlege of our soueraigne Lorde the Kinges maiestie, what fraude and corruption, hath of late tyme been used in the calling of his highnes coyne now currant, specially of the peces of .xii. s. commonly named Testons, by reason that the same sort of coyne for the greatnesse and facilitie of counterfeitynge, hath the rather geuen occasion to diuerse euill persones, to stampe or caste peces of the same forme and vngues, in greuous multitude: The practicers wherof (as is known) are not onely men here dwelling, but also for the moste parte haue been strangers, dwelling in fforain partes, who haue founde the meanes to conueigh secretly, and disperse the said counterfeit peces abrode in his maiesties dominions, to the greate deceit and detriment of his highnes moste longynge subiectes, which haue received the same. His maiestie therfore myndynge the due reformation hereof, and to preuent the like practises hereafter, by thadvice and assent of his dere uncle the Lorde Protector, and others of his counsaill, both will and commaunde, that from the last daye of Decembre nexte commynge, after the date hereof, the said coyne or peces of .xii. s. commonly called Testons, shall no more bee currant within any of his highnes realmes or dominions, but be taken onely for Bullion. And further straightly charged and commaundeth, all and singuler his highnes subiectes, and others whatsoever, being within any of his maiesties said realmes or dominions, that from the said last daye of Decembre, they or any of them, shall not utter or receiue in payment any of the said Testons, as his highnes coyne currant. And also his highnes by thadvice aforesaid, willeth and commaundeth, that whosoever persons or persons, after the said last daye of Decembre, shall be or cometh into his or their handes, any of the said Testons for a peculier gain to be had thereof, so hym or themwardes, shall not onely incurre and suffer the penalties of losse of the same, wherof the one moytie to bee adiudged and taken as forfeite to his highnes, and the other moytie to the parties presentynge the same in the chequer, or before any Justice of the Peace: but also shall suffer fine and imprisonment at his maiesties pleasure.

Nevertheless, his highnes moste gracious clemencie, tendynge his subiectes and others interestes, which by lawfull meanes doo possesse the said Testons, as their propre goodes, and for recovery of the losse, which otherwise they should sustein hereby: Is pleased, and dooth ordeine by the advice aforesaid, that every person or persons, so hauynge and possessynge the said Testons, being of his highnes iust standarde, shall and maye bring or sende the same, to the officers of any of his maiesties Shyres, where in exchange shall be deliuered vnto hym or them, the iust value and recompence thereof, as they be now currant, either in groates or other his highnes coynes, accordingly.

God save the King.

Excusum Londini, in ædibus Richardi Grafton
Regij Impressoris.

Cum privilegio ad impr.